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PTO/SB/21 (08-00)  
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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b> <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	Application Number	09/640,437	
	Filing Date	08/17/2000	
	First Named Inventor	James Crouthamel	
	Group Art Unit	3625	
	Examiner Name	Bonderer, David A.	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	5	Attorney Docket Number	21221.01P1

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
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<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	Gary B. Jarosik; Altheimer & Gray, Customer No. 25541
Signature	
Date	October 17, 2002

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on this date: 10/8/02			
Typed or printed name	Michelle Cook		
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant:	Crouthamel et al.	)	Examiner:	Bonderer, David A.
Serial No.:	09/640,437	)	Art Unit:	3625
Filed:	August 17, 2000	)	Atty Docket:	21221.01P1
Title:	Method And System For	)		
	Exchanging Data Between	)		
	Affiliated Sites	)		

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 13, 2002 please consider the following remarks.

**REMARKS**

In the subject application claims 1-34 remain pending. No claims have been added and no claims have been canceled. The reconsideration of the rejection of the claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Fields. Generally, the Office Action set forth that Fields discloses a search interface for a distributed database comprising: 1) Exchanging data between two different sites using different formats; 2) A translator; 3) Coverting the data; 4) Linking of user through one site via another site; 5) Storing the transactions; and 6) Promotions. The Office Action then set forth that, while Fields fails to describe the use of an independent site for processing, storing, charging, and